

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 RSR-01

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O R 261015Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2746

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 8961

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. IN THE FIRST MAJOR BATTLE FOUGHT ON THE APPROACHES TO PHNOM PENH SINCE THE U.S. BOMBING HALT, KHMER GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS SATURDAY KILLED 100 ENEMY TROOPS AND CAPTURED ELEVEN OTHERS WHO HAD TEMPORARILY CUT ROUTE ONE NEAR DEY ETH. USING ARTILLERY, KAF AND NAVY FIRE POWER, HTHE GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS SURROUNDED THE ENEMY FORCE AND DESTROYED IT AS AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE. THEY ALSO CAPTURED 100 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS FROM THE ENEMY. BOTH CAPTURED FORCES HAD BEEN PROMISED AN EASY VICTORY IN THE ABSENCE OF AMERICAN AIR STRIKES. REPORTS SUNDAY SAY THAT FOLLOWING THEIR VICTORY SATURDAY FANK UNITS ARE PRUSUING ENEMY REMANANTS OFF THE ROAD.

2. ON ROUTE 5, THE ORIGINAL ENEMY CUT IN THE HIGHWAY OF 15 KILOMETERS BETWEEN O SANDAN AND SOUTH OF SALA LEK PRAM HAD BEEN REDUCED TO A 3 TO 4 KILOMETER STRETCH 10 KILOMETERS NORTH OF SALA LEK
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PRAM. FANK HOPES TO COMPLETE THE CLEARING OF THE ROAD BEFORE

NIGHTFALL SUNDAY.

3. THE VITAL ROUTE 4 TO THE PORT OF KOMPONG SOM WAS CUT BY ENEMY ACTION SUNDAY MORNING. ENEMY FORCES CONTROL A 1 1/2 KILOMETER STRETCH OF THE HIGHWAY SEVEN KILOMETERS WEST OF KOMPONG SPEU.

4. THE PHNOM PENH REGION WAS GENERALLY QUIET SATURDAY EXCEPT FOR ROUTE 30 WHERE FANK TERRITORIAL UNITS WITHDREW FROM THE TOWN OF SETBO UNDER ENEMY PRESSURE.

5. THE MEKONG RIVER TOWN OF KOMPONG CHAM CONTINUES UNDER STRONG ENEMY PRESSURE BUT NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION WAS REPORTED IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

6. VISITING CONGRESSMAN CLARENCE D. LONG, DEMOCRAT FROM MARYLAND, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE SUNDAY IN PHNOM PENH THAT WHILE HE GENERALLY OPPOSED MILITARY AID PROGRAMS, HE APPROVED MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THE KHMER REPUBLIC WHICH WAS RESISTING COMMUNIST AGGREGATION.

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